

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 05851 110610Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

-----082404 112313Z /75

R 110605Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6783

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T AMMAN 05851

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, SY

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ASSAD'S HEALTH

1. ACCORDING TO JORDANIAN ELDER STATESMAN ABDUL MONEM RIFAI WHO RECENTLY VISITED PRESIDENT ASSAD, HE SAW NO EVIDENCE THAT PRESIDENT ASSAD'S HEALTH IS AILING IN ANY WAY. ASSAD SEEMED TO BE IN GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION AND FURTHERMORE DENIED TO RIFAI THAT HE IS HAVING ANY MEDICAL PROBLEM. RIFAI HAD COMMENTED THAT ASSAD SHOULD TAKE MORE VACATIONS THAN IS APPARENTLY HIS CUSTOM. IN REPLY, ASSAD SAID HE DOES TAKE SHORT VACATIONS WHEN HE FEELS THE NEED BUT THAT PRESENTLY HE FEELS NO SUCH REQUIREMENT AND HE IS PERFECTLY AT EASE WITH HIS WORKLOAD. ASSAD DID COMMENT THAT HE SEEMS TO HAVE GOTTEN INTO A CONFIRMED HABIT OF WORKING LATE AT NIGHT, OFTEN UNTIL DAYBREAK.

2. IN GENERAL, RIFAI SAID THAT HIS FACE-TO-FACE ENCOUNTERS, DIRECT QUESTIONING AND GENERAL IMPRESSIONS HAD LEFT HIM WITH THE BELIEF THAT ASSAD DOES NOT HAVE A SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEM. PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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